

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

14

DECISION

TOPIC

Federal Excess Property Program Agreement with Prairie Rivers RC&D

The Commission is asked to approve a \$50,000 contract between the Prairie Rivers RC&D and the Iowa DNR. All funds utilized in this contract are from the USDA Forest Service (USFS) and approval of this agreement is necessary for the Forestry Bureau to qualify for federal FEPP funds to transfer through the Prairie Rivers RC&D. To take advantage of expanding USFS Fire Program opportunities with current staff levels, the IDNR Forestry Bureau has needed to develop partnerships with other agencies to ensure FEPP program delivery. The agreement will provide Prairie Rivers RC&D with the funds necessary to cover salary, travel and overall administrative costs of running the program for the Iowa DNR.

The Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau Fire Program is closely coordinated with the USFS Fire Program. Through a cooperative agreement with the USFS, Iowa DNR Forestry is able to acquire federal excess property (vehicles, generators, tools, etc.) from national locations and distribute this property to Iowa's volunteer fire departments (VFDs). Since 2000, the Forestry Bureau has acquired and distributed 2,895 federal items with an estimated value of \$8,502,314. The total recorded value of items distributed in Iowa through this program is \$19,127,485. In the State Fiscal Year 2008 the Forestry Bureau delivered 26 pieces of equipment to rural fire departments valued at \$1,142,016. This equipment included 11 trucks, 5 trailers, 3 small craft, 3 generators, 2 commercial pumpers, 1 jaws-of-life and 1 crane. The Forestry Bureau has been delivering the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP) since 1949. Additionally the Forestry Bureau has an additional opportunity to receive excess equipment from the Department of Defense via another agreement with the Forest Service.

The Iowa DNR Forestry Bureau continues to expand its fire program. The IDNR Fire Program annually awards close to 100 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grants for almost \$218,000 to Iowa volunteer fire departments. The Fire Program also provides wildland and prescribed fire fighting training Iowa's natural resource community and VFDs.

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Conservation and Recreation Division
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